

Report of Accomplishments Stevens County Conservation District



July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003

Natural Resource Improvements Summary:

- Utilizing Conservation Commission and Ecology cost-share funding, one landowner drilled a well and installed six armored off-stream stock tanks thus removing 120 cow/calf pairs from $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of the Colville River.
- The District sold 142,000 tree seedlings to 234 landowners. At 350 trees per acre that is enough to reforest 406 acres.
- An Ecology Youth Corp group removed trash from one site in the Pingston Creek Watershed

Mission of the Stevens County Conservation District:

To promote the wise use of the renewable natural resources within Stevens County Conservation District.

Water Quality Implementation

- A portion of the Conservation Commission Implementation grant funds were used as supplemental funding for a USGS/WRIA 59 Team project to develop a calibrated groundwater flow model for the Colville River Watershed (WRIA 59), comprising 650,000 acres or approximately 46% of Stevens County containing 85% of the Counties population. The USGS final report is published as "Water Resources of the Ground-Water System in the Unconsolidated Deposits of the Colville River Watershed, Stevens County, Washington". Municipalities, water purveyors, and the County will utilize the information and the groundwater flow model for current and future planning to address water supply issues.
- The District contracted with a consulting firm to conduct a technical assessment of multi-purpose water storage opportunities within WRIA 59 for the WRIA 59 Team. The Team will use the results of the assessment for implementing future water storage options within WRIA 59.
- 655 water quality and macroinvertebrate samples were taken in WRIA 59 and WRIA 61 resulting in 2,438 samples analyzed.
- Six data loggers were installed to gather air and water temperatures.

Basic Funding

- Basic funding was placed in the general fund and not tracked separately.

Local Funding:

- The \$7,500 received from Stevens County was placed in the general fund and not tracked separately, but was basically used as grant match.

Dairy:

- A Consultant personally delivered the results of his earlier soil testing and record keeping requirements to 26 participating dairy producers in Lincoln, Spokane and Stevens Counties.
- All 30 dairy producers in Lincoln, Spokane, and Stevens Counties received a "friendly" dairy inspection from Terry Wittmeier, Ecology Dairy Inspector, accompanied by District and NRCS staff.
- Three dairy producers in Spokane and Stevens Counties spent approximately \$235,894 implementing their DNMPs and received back approximately \$176,920 (75%) in cost-share funds.
- Five dairy producers in Lincoln, Spokane, and Stevens Counties received federal EQIP or other funding, to assist in implementing their DNMPs.
- All 30 dairies in Lincoln, Spokane and Stevens Counties have approved DNMPs.

- *Four DNMPs were certified in Spokane and Stevens Counties and District staff devoted 104 hours to dairy technical service.*
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Community Collaboration and Coordination

- *The Stevens County Conservation District Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the Stevens County Weed Board and the U S Forest Service with 186 in attendance.*
 - *The District was the lead agency for WRIA 59, the Colville River Watershed through the organizational Phase I and the data gathering Phase II. After 43 months, the District resigned as lead agency effective June 30, 2003 and Stevens County accepted the responsibility. A total of 45 plus WRIA 59 Team members contributed 13,399 volunteer hours. The District's wise investment of the WRIA 59 funds resulted in \$35,000 in interest for the project.*
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Information and Education:

- *The District hosted eight youth educational events attended by 1,434 students from 65 schools located in Stevens County and across the state.*
- *The District hosted 17 adult educational events attended by 641 participants.*
- *Over 10,000 Stevens County residents attended the Northeast Washington Fair and viewed the Districts "Watershed Management" display.*
- *Eighty-six articles, ads, and legal notices appeared in the three county newspapers.*
- *The District newsletter was distributed to 7,251 landowners.*
- *The District provided telephone, in office, or on site contacts with 1,367 landowners and an additional 3,443 letters were mailed to Stevens County residents.*
- *The District documented progress with 232 pictures.*